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COUNTRY (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Briesen Airfield

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EVALUATION 25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

29 June 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. Between 15 May and 1 June 1951, source observed that the previously reported Soviet transport brigade at Briesen airfield numbered 80 men. They were quartered in four newly fenced-in temporary wooden buildings near the building of the construction management. The number of laborers was increased to 1,800 men who worked in three shifts. It was rumored that more laborers were to be employed. The laborers said that, upon completion of the construction, they were to be transferred to Luckau-altend airfield for construction of a runway.
2. During the period of observation, concreting was started on the western end of the runway. A strip of about 60 x 100 meters was completed by 1 June. The runway was given a 20-cm concrete cover over a layer of gravel about 30 to 40 cm thick. Work was being done in strips 3 meters wide. As soon as a strip was completed it was covered with runway mats. An area about 400 meters square, at the western end of the runway, was cleared of trees and excavated. A turning apron probably was to be constructed there. Laborers said that the runway was to be completed by August or September 1951 and that up to 20 carloads of gravel were to be used daily for the runway.
3. The warehouse for cement was to be enlarged by 50 meters. Construction was being done on five of the 13 scheduled barracks buildings in forest sub-areas (Jagen) 59 and 60. One building was roofed and the rafters of another building were completed. The buildings, each 14 x 65 meters, had cellars. Their walls, about 38 cm thick, were lined with glass wool and insulated with sheets of asbestos compound.
4. An additional tank, 5 meters long and 2 meters in diameter, was being installed in the underground fuel dump where fuel for the tractors and diesel engines was stored.
5. Employees of the Lueben Land-Registry Office set boundary stones around the field area. Previously, the field was guarded by 10 German guards who wore red arm bands. Between 28 May and 1 June, civilians and Soviet officers arrived in eight official cars of the Soviet Zone administration and inspected construction at the field for about three to four hours.

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6. During the days of observation, biplanes and twin-jet aircraft repeatedly approached at a high altitude from the south, probably from Finsterwalde, and circled over the field. The twin-jet aircraft had straight wings and the leading and trailing sections of their fuselages were of about equal length. *

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* ~~Comment.~~ Briesen airfield is under construction. A hard surface runway about 3,000 meters long, is to be built. The reported thickness of the concrete cover is the same as was previously observed by another source at the runway on Werneuchen airfield. Previously, 1,500 laborers have been employed at the field.

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